

Test Taking Strategies

Cornell Notes

1. Make sure the questions written on the left match the information on the right
2. Compare your notes with a friend to make sure you have all the information you need and it is correct
3. Study individually first
 - a. Read over a section of notes
 - b. Read the question you have written on the left hand side for that section
 - i. Does the information on the right hand side answer your question?
 1. Yes-leave it
 2. No- change your question
 - c. Read another section of notes and repeat step 3b for each section
 - d. Fold the right side of your paper over, so you can only see the questions that are written on the left hand side
 - e. Ask yourself the first question and answer it (in your mind, write it on a paper, etc.)
 - i. Unfold your paper and see if you answered the question correctly
 1. Yes-move on to the next question
 2. No- put a star by the question
 - a. study the information on the right hand side
 - b. fold your paper again
 - c. ask yourself the question again (repeat step 3e)
 - f. Repeat steps d and e for the rest of the questions you wrote on the left hand side of your paper
 - g. When you are done, go back to the questions you starred and repeat steps 3d and 3e
4. Study with a partner
 - a. Hand your CN paper to your partner
 - b. They will ask you a question from the left side of your notes (focus on the ones that are starred)
 - c. You will answer the question verbally or written, so your partner can check your answer
 - i. Your answer is correct
 1. your partner will put a check by the question or star and go on to the next question
 - ii. Your answer is incorrect
 1. your partner will put a star by it and if it already has a star he/she will move on to the next question
 2. Your partner will hand back your paper and you will study that portion again
 3. Hand your paper back to your partner and they will ask you the question again
 4. Repeat step 4b and 4c
5. Make sure you use this process to study multiple times before taking your test, so you know you are truly ready to pass your test

Annotating Text From Books and Worksheets

1. Rewrite annotated notes on flashcards, simplified notes, or a thinking map(s)
 - a. The goal
 - i. Predict and write down questions that will be on a test or quiz based on your annotated notes

Thinking Maps and Other Styles of Notetaking

1. Compare your notes with a friend to make sure you have all the information you need and it is correct
2. Explain your thinking map or notes to one of your peers
 - a. Why was this particular thinking map used for this information?
 - b. Explain the information/notes you took
3. Ask a peer or teacher for more information about your notes when you feel you have missing information or not enough information
4. Review section by section, asking yourself what would be a good test question for the information or section
 - a. Write this question on a flashcard and the answer on the back side
5. Study the flashcards
 - a. Ask yourself the question that is on the flashcard
 - i. Write down the answer or say the answer to yourself
 1. Answer is correct-
 - a. Put the flashcard aside and continue to put the other ones you answer correctly with it
 2. Answer is incorrect-
 - a. Ask yourself the question you just answered incorrect
 - b. No matter if you answered the question correctly the second time or not, you need to start a pile for incorrect answers.
 3. Complete this routine until you have gone through all the flashcards
 - ii. Pick up the pile of flashcards that you answered correctly
 1. Ask yourself the questions on those flashcards again to make sure you really know the answer
 2. If there are any questions you missed, add them to the incorrect pile
 - iii. Pick up the pile of flashcards that you answered incorrectly
 1. Read the first question to yourself
 2. Say the answer to yourself
 3. Look at the answer on the back of the flashcard
 4. Repeat steps 1-3 until you get the answer correct
 5. Continue to follow the same routine for all of the flashcards you answered incorrectly
 - iv. Once you have gone through the entire pile, repeat step iii, to double check that you really know the answer to each question
 - v. Ask a friend to quiz you
 1. Give him/her all the flashcards you answered incorrectly the first time
 2. Shuffle the cards
 3. They will show and verbally ask you the question on the flashcards one at a time
 4. After each question you will answer and put the ones you answered correctly in one pile and the rest in another
 5. Repeat steps iii, iv, v